

Department of State has publicly endorsed such a role for the United Nations.

It is due to this information, from reputable sources, that the Senate attached three conditions to our assistance to the Sri Lankan military in the fiscal year 2008 State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill. Anyone who reviews those conditions should agree that they are reasonable and appropriate. They would require the Sri Lankan Government to be bringing to justice members of the military who have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights; end unreasonable restrictions on access in the country by humanitarian organizations and journalists; and agree to the establishment of a field presence of the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sri Lanka.

It is regrettable that rather than explain why the Sri Lankan Government should not meet such reasonable standards when it is seeking millions of dollars in U.S. taxpayer assistance, some Sri Lankan officials have attacked our motives and falsely attributed our actions to LTTE propaganda. Others have insisted that they are meeting these standards already, when the facts clearly indicate that far more needs to be done.

We want Sri Lanka to succeed in stopping terrorism, and we recognize that military force can be necessary against terrorist tactics. But there is no military solution to the Sri Lankan conflict, which has dragged on for more than two decades. Thousands of innocent people—Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims—have been killed. More than 1,000 are reported to have “disappeared” in just the past 12 to 18 months, and many more before that. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been displaced by the fighting. Families on both sides of the conflict have suffered terribly, and the country remains divided and no closer to peace.

Every time a Sri Lankan soldier violates international humanitarian law it alienates the very people in the Tamil community whose support the Government needs to combat terrorism. Our country has experienced a similar problem in Iraq, where killings of civilians have hurt our mission, tarnished our image and weakened the support of our allies.

I would hope that the Sri Lankan Government would see our action for what it is. We want to help, but not unconditionally. I believe the United States could and should play a more active role, with other key partners, in helping to facilitate negotiations on a political settlement. But rhetoric about human rights and the appointment of ineffectual commissions of inquiry that have no credibility, only goes so far. The situation remains grave and those responsible for abuses are rarely punished, making a peace agreement more difficult to achieve. A field presence of the Office of the High

Commissioner for Human Rights, with sufficient mandate and capability to conduct full and unfettered monitoring throughout the country, communicate its findings to all sides of the conflict and the public, and provide advice and technical assistance, is overdue. Also urgently needed is greater access for humanitarian organizations to assist civilians caught in the crossfire and for journalists to report the facts.

The Sri Lankan people have suffered the consequences of ethnic discrimination, violence, and injustice for the better part of their country's history. We cannot solve Sri Lanka's conflict; only the Sri Lankan people can. But we can and want to continue helping if the Government demonstrates that it takes our concerns seriously.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK SPALDING SCHRODER, JR.

• Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today I honor in the RECORD of the Senate Jack Spalding Schroder, Jr. of Atlanta, who is a great Georgian and a great American. I honor Jack upon his retirement from Alston & Bird and for his work on behalf of the Georgia Hospital Association.

For nearly 32 years, Jack has served as lead legal counsel for the Georgia Hospital Association as an employee of Alston & Bird and its predecessor. He has served alongside three different association presidents, beginning with Seldon Brown in 1975, and he has authored numerous articles on hospitals and healthcare. He helped pave the way in the 1980s for public, not-for-profit hospitals to transfer leadership to not-for-profit governing boards that reduced political pressures and enhanced fundraising abilities. His efforts culminated in a major judicial victory at the Georgia Supreme Court.

Jack helped craft Georgia's first-ever Certificate of Need law, a law designed to control rising health care costs and preserve access to hospital services for all Georgians. In the past 10 years, while political pressures have forced other states to abandon Certificate of Need, Jack has been instrumental in helping Georgia preserve its successful Certificate of Need program.

Jack also helped shape important pieces of indigent care-related legislation that were designed to preserve access to care for hundreds of thousands of indigent patients while strengthening Georgia's local, community hospitals.

In addition to his role as lead legal counsel for the Georgia Hospital Association, Jack has served as president of the Georgia Academy of Health Care Attorneys as well as on the boards of a number of prominent health care law groups such as the Atlanta Bar Association and the American Health Lawyers Association.

Jack has served as a tireless advocate for enhancing Georgia hospitals'

ability to provide quality, cost-effective health care services to every Georgia resident. He and his wife Karen have earned the many happy years of retirement ahead of them.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the U.S. Senate the contributions of Jack Schroder to the health care industry, to the Georgia Hospital Association and to the State of Georgia.●

RECOGNITION OF MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to a historic church celebrating its 120th anniversary on November 10 to 11, 2007. Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Omaha, NE, was founded in 1887 and continues to thrive as it serves a vast congregation within the minority community living in Nebraska's largest city.

This anniversary is a significant achievement, especially for an institution born during a time of racial bigotry and hatred in America. The church's founding required the strength, courage, and faith of early African-American leaders, who recognized the importance of their mission to create a church which has now succeeded in delivering the Word of God to generations in three different centuries.

Mount Moriah Baptist Church has an interesting history. It was first organized in 1867, but due to the lack of a Black presence, membership declined. Then in 1887, the Reverend Amos Johnson organized a new baptist church with just seven members. A name was not immediately selected for the newly organized body. Finally, in 1888, the parishioners settled on Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. However, in 1897, the Enterprise newspaper reported the resignation of the Reverend R. January, who asked some of the church members to form a new congregation. The remaining members reorganized their congregation as the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.

Mount Moriah, whose name means “prepared for God,” has had to survive numerous challenges, including several changes in location and a fire which caused significant damage during the mid-1920s. In 1956, during the administration of Reverend St. Clair, who served for 20 years, the church underwent extensive renovations.

Today, 12 decades after it was formed, Mount Moriah Baptist Church remains a focal point in Omaha, NE, just as its namesake, Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, has always been a focal point in biblical history.

I wish to commend Rev. Ralph B. Lassiter, Sr., and the congregation of Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Omaha, NE, for continuing the long and glorious tradition of teaching the Bible and its meaning and training the faithful how to live its message. Your service is truly admirable.●